

On the Same Page

“according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!” (Psalms 51:1-2 ESV)

A Developing Direction

Forever-Family Fellowship

We will teach and practice truth-and-love relationships with brothers-sisters in Christ that must survive/thrive in the present because we believe that these relationships will last forever

All-Week-Long Worship

As the local body of believers gathers each Sunday for worship, **we will inspire a worship experience for all age groups that will travel with you all week long.** What we do on Sunday will assist you in your singing, in your praying, in your devotion, and in your witness.

Conversely, it is as you worship all-week-long that you will be prepared to enter into gathered worship on Sunday.

Day-to-Day Discipleship

As followers of Christ, we are disciples every single day. Respect for and commitment to Scripture is essential. **We will show you how to interact with and respond to God's Word, both as individuals, and in groups.**

Moment-by-Moment Mission

God, the Architect of the world and of our lives arranges appointments and interruptions. Each of us is called to represent His Son for the glory of His Name. **We will cultivate a mind-set for moment-by-moment mission, whether close to home, or far away.**

Little Boys; Big Lesson

Sunday, March 19, 2017

On two separate Wednesday evenings I have attempted to help two different 6 year old boys memorize and understand a verse: “For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.” (James 2:10 ESV) For some reason the children’s book uses the UK edition of ESV, replacing the word “guilty” with “accountable.”

As you can guess, that’s a mouthful for a young kid. Rarely does he use the word “accountable,” much less read it at this age level. But hey, we are here to learn. And, the boys, amazingly, have little trouble understanding the concept.

If I tell you that I’ll pay you \$10 to go out in the yard and pick up 100 sticks, would you do it? The boys say yes, and would like to go out right now and work on the project rather than sit in this room and work on this verse. And so I ask, “If you put in front of me a pile of sticks, and I count them, and there are only 99, do I owe you \$10. They instantly understand that the “counting” matters (the core of the word “accountable”). I’m surprised that they have not suggested just breaking the longest stick in half and solving the problem, but that’s another article. And they get it. 100 means 100.

When mom bakes cookies and says, “Don’t eat the cookies!”, are you in trouble if you eat just one. The boys know. “Yes.” The more sophisticated among us might say that we didn’t eat cookies (pl.), just cookie (sg.), and mom should have said don’t eat any of the cookies if that’s what she meant. But the boys know that such sophistry will not fly with mom, nor with God.

The point, then, of the verse, is clear, though the memorizing and the saying of it, for 6 year olds, is quite a chore. And the point is vital. My condition before God as a sinner, which the Bible assures us is universal, is not due to the biggest, baddest sin that you or I have ever committed. And if you happen to have avoided certain big, bad sins, you are in no less peril. Since, for instance, that unnoticed offense of doing good from wrong motives or with a bad attitude can be the one failure that renders you guilty or accountable of violating the whole law.

The point is not that I have to work harder to clean up the lesser messes, since I am clearly not even aware of all my failings as accurately measured by God’s law. No, the point is that I need a Savior who will pay my penalty and forgive all my sins. And that’s a point that 6 year old boys can grasp, and perhaps grasp better at than at 60, when we grow up into practices of parsing and sophistry.

Martin Luther, commenting on [1 Peter 2:11](#), and distinguishing between our purity by faith in Christ, and our weakness in the flesh. There is an ongoing battle, in that faith has not yet completely conquered our flesh, though we are completely saved by Christ.

To be sure, sin has been removed through faith; yet you still have the flesh, which is foolish and furious. Therefore see that you suppress it. You will have to have strength to quell and subdue lust, and the greater your faith is, the greater the trials will be. Therefore you must be prepared and armed, and you must combat lusts without ceasing; for they will assail you with large numbers and try to take you captive.

Martin Luther's Works, The Catholic Epistles.
Concordia, 1967, p. 70




News and Notes

Prayer Time: Sundays, 9 a.m., in the sanctuary

Ladies Bible Study, studying 2 Peter, meets each Tuesday, 10 a.m.

Awana clubs meet on Wednesdays, 6-7:39 p.m. for children ages 3 through 5th grade. Our **Awana Store** is this coming Wednesday, Mar 22, and **Awards Night** on Mar 29.

Men of Action breakfast and meeting is this Saturday, March 18, 7:30 a.m., studying and discussing Romans 12:1,2



Saying 'No' to the misuse of words
(Luke 4:1-4)
Sunday, March 5 @ 11

Saying 'No' to the misuse of worship
(Luke 4:5-8)
Sunday, March 12 @ 11

Saying 'No' to the misuse of willfulness
(Luke 4:9-13)
Sunday, March 19 @ 11

Learning Obedience
Jesus' Temptations in Luke 4

First Baptist, Milford
milfordbaptist.org
133 Detroit, at the corner
of N. Main

Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

We are reaching the conclusion of a 3-week mini-series on the temptations of Jesus. , found in Luke 4:1-13, called "Learning Obedience." The first temptation (4:1-4), on the mis-use of words, [can be heard here](#). Last week's message, on the 2nd temptation (4:5-8), on the mis-use of worship, [can be heard here](#).

This Sunday, March 19, we will consider the 3rd temptation of Jesus (Luke 4:9-13), and think about the misuse of our wills, where we seek to exercise control over God's will.

Sunday School classes will resume their regular schedule this Sunday morning. Our adult class is studying a subject related to the upcoming morning message (passing God's tests). Children are learning the Christian's armor, from Ephesians 6.

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